

**Prepared Testimony of the City of New Haven**  
Respectfully submitted to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee  
Public Hearing of March 22, 2010



City of New Haven  
John DeStefano, Jr.  
Mayor

**S.B. 25 (GOVERNOR'S BILL NO. 25): AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING  
BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND  
OTHER PURPOSES**

I would like to request that the \$2.5 million remaining in the \$5.3 million appropriated for the River Street Municipal Development Project(MDP) in public act 07-7 be retained in this bill in order to help assure that funds needed for the continued success of the River Street project are readily available.

The River Street MDP is a current project working to reclaim over 25 acres of vacant and abandoned industrial brownfield sites in the Fair Haven section of New Haven. To date the project has attracted four new businesses in buildings that were vacant and polluted. Suraci Metal Finishing which moved into 90 River Street in December, 2006, Capasso Restoration, which moved into 34 Lloyd Street in January, 2009, New Haven Awning, which relocated to 178 Chapel Street in September, 2009, and Erwin Hauer Design, which acquired 184-196 Chapel Street in October, 2009. The businesses together employ 90 people, they have invested millions to date in renovating 105,000 square feet of space with another 54,000 square feet underway for Erwin Hauer Design and all plan to expand if economic conditions allow.

Thanks to approval of the Bond Commission in January, 2009, \$2.8 million was approved to assist with extraordinary site development expenses allowing Colony Hardware to begin construction on a \$10 million, 133,000 square foot facility at 100 River Street this summer, resulting in the retention of 100 and creation of an additional 100 jobs.

Reconstruction and improvements to side streets in the project area were completed last fall, thanks to a \$2.5 million allocation from the State in 2006, which has also been used to acquire, stabilize and remediate properties designated for redevelopment. Measures to secure the Quinnipiac River shoreline off of River Street, are expected to be constructed in 2010-2011. The City of New Haven has invested over \$11 million of its own funds in the River Street area for the acquisition of properties, brownfield cleanup and infrastructure improvements and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency also committed funds and continues to be a partner in this project.

The \$2.5 million which remains to be allocated is needed most immediately to begin preparing the remaining redevelopment parcels located at 112 Chapel Street, 46 and 56 River Street and 198 River Street for development as the City is currently considering proposals from businesses for those properties. It will also be needed to

complete construction of a waterfront bulkhead and walkway and related infrastructure improvements.

*Questions or comments, please contact:* Helen Rosenberg Economic Development Officer (203) 946-5889